AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (New) A hydraulic brake apparatus comprising:

a tandem brake master cylinder comprising:

a cylinder body;

a rod piston movable in response to a brake-operating member, the rod piston defining within the cylinder body a first reservoir pressure chamber, which is in communication with a reservoir, and a first pressure chamber, which is in communication with a hydraulic brake circuit connecting the tandem brake master cylinder and a brake wheel cylinder and adapted to be connected to or separated from the first reservoir pressure chamber;

a floating piston movable in response to the rod piston, the floating piston defining within the cylinder body a second reservoir pressure chamber, which is in communication with the reservoir, and a second pressure chamber, which is in communication with the hydraulic brake circuit and adapted to be connected to or separated from the second reservoir pressure chamber,

a separation valve provided in the hydraulic brake circuit to establish and shut off communication between the tandem brake master cylinder and the brake wheel cylinder;

a pressure control valve unit controlling fluid pressure to be supplied from an external fluid-pressure supply source to the brake wheel cylinder while the separation valve is in a shutoff condition; and

a stroke simulator mechanism allowing an idle stroke of the rod piston and an idle stroke of the floating piston, while the separation valve is in the shutoff condition, to ensure a stroke of the brake-operating member in accordance with an input load to the brake-operating member,

wherein a first orifice is provided in a first passage to establish, during the idle stroke of the rod piston, communication between the first pressure chamber and the first reservoir pressure chamber;

wherein the length of the idle stroke of the rod piston is set to be longer than the length of the idle stroke of the floating piston.

4. (New) A hydraulic brake apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a second orifice is also provided in a second passage which establishes, during the idle stroke of the floating piston, communication between the second pressure chamber and the second reservoir pressure chamber.